

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been amended, and claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 13-15 are newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566) in view of Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's independent claim 1 recites an electronic endoscope system having a monitor which includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, and a storage system that stores patient data. The patient data includes a patient data list which is displayed on the monitor. The electronic endoscope system also includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from the patient data list displayed on the monitor. The selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, a manual operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a manual settlement system that manually settles the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list.

Applicant's independent claim 7 recites an electronic endoscope system and a monitor. The electronic endoscope system includes, inter alia, a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between a first display mode

and a second display mode, the second display mode including a patient-data-list-display scene, and a storage system that stores patient data. The patient data includes a patient data list which is displayed on the monitor. The electronic endoscope system also includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from the patient data list displayed on the monitor. The selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, an operation system that controls the indication of patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a selector that selects the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list.

Kanno et al. discloses a host computer 208 which includes a hard disc apparatus 215. See Figure 29 and col. 22, lines 25-37 of Kanno et al. Data base files are recorded in the hard disc apparatus 215, the contents of which are shown in Figure 30 of Kanno et al. See col. 22, lines 50-52 of Kanno et al. Figure 30(A) of Kanno et al. shows a patient data file in which data of inspected patients are recorded. See Figure 30(A) and col. 22, lines 53-54 of Kanno et al. Figure 32 shows a main menu which is displayed on a computer display 209. Options listed in the menu include, inter alia, "endoscope inspection", "image search" and "patient data management". See Figure 32 and col. 23, lines 30-31 of Kanno et al.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Figures 30(A) and 32 of Kanno et al. show a patient data list displayed on a monitor. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner is incorrect, and that Figures 30(A) and 32 of Kanno et al. do not show a patient data list which is displayed on a monitor. Rather, Applicant submits that Figure 30(A) merely shows a data base file which is stored in a

hard disc apparatus, and Figure 32 shows a main menu which is displayed on a computer display. The main menu lists a patient data management option (among other menu options), but does not list patient data. Since the main menu does not list patient data, Applicant respectfully submits that the main menu is not a patient data list.

As Kanno et al. does not display a patient data list on a monitor, Applicant respectfully submits that Kanno et al. fails to disclose or suggest a selection system that selects individual patient data from a patient data list displayed on a monitor, as recited in Applicant's independent claims 1 and 7.

Applicant further submits that Kanno et al. fails to disclose or suggest a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on a monitor between an endoscope-image-display scene and a patient-data-list-display scene, as recited in claim 1. In this regard, Applicant submits that Kanno et al. requires that the "endoscope inspection", "image search" and "patient data management" options be selected from the main menu for their scenes to be displayed.

Nishikori et al. discloses an endoscope system 1 which includes an operation computer 3. See Figure 1 of Nishikori et al. Figures 15A to 15J show the screen of the operation computer 3. See col. 10, lines 52-54 of Nishikori et al. At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Figures 15D, 15F, 15I and 15J of Nishikori et al. show a patient data list which is displayed on a monitor.

The Figures in Nishikori et al. show a list having an ID. No. column and a name column. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Nishikori et al. fails to disclose or suggest that data can be selected from the list, as recited in Applicant's independent

claims 1 and 7. Applicant further submits that Nishikori et al. fails to disclose or suggest that data to be selected from the list is visually indicated, as recited in claims 1 and 7.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from a patient data list displayed on a monitor, where the selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, a manual operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a manual settlement system that manually settles the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Applicant also submits that the combination of Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from a patient data list displayed on a monitor, where the selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, an operation system that controls the indication of patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a selector that selects the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, as recited in Applicant's claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the inventions recited in Applicant's independent claims 1 and 7 are not obvious in view of the combination of Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al., and thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and allow claims 1 and 7.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 7, from which they depend.

Claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled, their subject matter having been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 7, respectfully.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanno et al. in view of Nishikori et al., and further in view of Ozawa et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ozawa et al., which is directed towards an electronic endoscope, fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Kanno et al. and Nishikori et al. That is, Applicant submits that the combination of Kanno et al., Nishikori et al. and Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest an electronic endoscope system which includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from a patient data list displayed on a monitor, where the selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, a manual operation system that controls the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a manual settlement system that manually settles the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 1, or an electronic endoscope system which includes a selection system that selects individual patient data from a patient data list displayed on a monitor, where the selection system includes an indicator system that visually indicates patient data to be selected from the patient data list, an operation

system that controls the indication of patient data to be selected from the patient data list, and a selector that selects the indication of the patient data to be selected from the patient data list, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 7.

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 4 and 10 are in condition for allowance, at least in view of their dependency on claims 1 and 7, respectively. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection and allow claims 4 and 10.

Applicant has added new claims 13-15 for the Examiner's consideration. Dependent claims 13 and 14 recite that the scene displayed on the monitor is displayed in accordance with a series of clock pulses outputted by a timing controller, and the timing controller controls a frequency of the series of clock pulses based on which of an endoscope-image-display scene and the patient-data-list-display scene is selected to be displayed on the monitor. Support for these features may be found, inter alia, at page 21, lines 21-25 of Applicant's specification. Applicant respectfully submits that these features are not disclosed or suggested by the applied prior art.

For at least this reason, as well as because of their dependency on claims 1 and 7, respectively, Applicant respectfully submits that newly added claims 13 and 14 are allowable, and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate as such in the next Office communication.

Newly added independent claim 15 recites an electronic endoscope system which includes a video processor that outputs a patient data list which is displayed on a monitor, a selector that selects individual patient data from the patient data list displayed on the monitor, and a switcher that causes an endoscope image associated with the

selected individual patient data to be output by the video processor and displayed on the monitor in response to the selection of the individual patient data from the patient data list.

Applicant respectfully submits that this combination of features is not disclosed or suggested by the applied prior art, and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

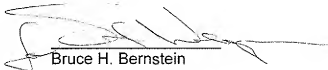
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryo OZAWA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line.

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